



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**AFGHANISTAN**

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# FACT SHEET

## Afghanistan Parliamentary Assistance Program (APAP)

### OVERVIEW

Through the Afghanistan Parliamentary Assistance Program (APAP), USAID advances the Afghan Parliament's institutional, technical, and political development. APAP's support was crucial in establishing the first Afghan Parliament in more than 40 years. APAP assisted the government in creating the National Assembly by laying out its initial organizational structure, providing significant infrastructure, and training support staff prior to the first session. Ultimately, USAID's assistance will enable the Parliament to operate as a strong, independent, and effective legislative, representative, and oversight body.

### ACTIVITIES

- Developing the institutional capacity of the National Assembly to provide effective and efficient legislative support services to members of parliament (MPs).
- Strengthening the ability and capacity of the MPs to perform their legislative functions and responsibilities.
- Building linkages between the National Assembly and the executive branch, civil society, non-governmental organizations, and the media.
- Providing technical assistance to six key legislative committees: International Affairs, Legislative Affairs, Economic Affairs, Legal Affairs, Finance and Budget, and Justice.
- Increasing the number of public forums in which Afghan citizens and their elected representatives can interact.

### RESULTS

- Assisted parliamentary leadership in creating the National Assembly's first strategic plan.
- Established a parliamentary library with more than 3,000 books and internet facilities.
- Designed, produced, and broadcast a series of television and radio advocacy programs to provide a 'people's perspective' on the Afghanistan National Development Strategy.
- Facilitated the participation of MPs in three community development forum discussions in Hirat, Badakhshan, and Nangarhar.
- Launched the Afghanistan Parliamentary Institute, which now conducts training courses in English, IT, the legislative process, finance/budgeting, public relations, and report writing.
- Created a Fellowship Program that has graduated 22 people and inducted an additional 34 Fellows to the National Assembly. Two Fellows graduated from the New York State Legislature.
- Provided support for the entire National Assembly budget process, enabling the Parliament to develop a functional budget and employ good financial management practices.
- Improved the quality and efficiency of the legislative process through the establishment of Committee Support Teams. The teams assist with committee work plans, briefing books on priority legislation, training on committee procedures, and research.
- Conducted public information campaigns (even in insecure provinces) to engage the public in the activities of the National Assembly, including radio roundtables between citizens and MPs.
- Improved the ability of parliamentarians to make informed decisions on legislation through the provision of local-language reference tools. These guides include *Constitution*, *Civil Law and Penal Code*, *Criminal Procedures Code*, *Civil Procedures Code*, *Commercial Code*, and *A Plain Language Guide to ANDS*.
- Built the capacity of parliamentarians to work together for the common good of Afghanistan through a study tour to Northern Ireland on peace-building and reconciliation.

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